



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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**MR 2008 31**

| For Immediate Release: December 1, 2008

**EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENDED**

Authorization of Additional Weeks for Collecting Unemployment Insurance  
could affect up to approximately 5,000 persons

**HONOLULU-** The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that seven weeks of additional federal unemployment benefits are currently available for unemployed workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits and 13 weeks of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC).

The additional extension under the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 was signed by President George Bush on November 21, 2008, and is effective from November 23, 2008.

This new federal law amends the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 and expands the EUC program to provide up to 20 weeks of federally-funded unemployment compensation to eligible individuals. The first payable week for the seven additional weeks is the week ending November 29, 2008.

According to Darwin L.D. Ching, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, the department is in the process of identifying individuals who have already exhausted their first 13 weeks of EUC benefits. These individuals will be notified on how to reactivate their EUC claims to file for the additional seven weeks. Individuals who are currently filing for the EUC will also be notified about the additional seven weeks and have their EUC maximum benefit amount automatically increased.

Although the EUC program ends on March 31, 2009, individuals with balance remaining on their EUC claim may continue to be eligible for their EUC maximum benefit amount until the week ending August 29, 2009.

Questions may be directed to the following unemployment insurance offices statewide:

Honolulu at 808-586-8970 or 808-586-8971; Waipahu at 808-675-0030; Maui at 808-984-8400; Molokai at 808-553-1750; Hilo at 808-974-4086; Kona at 808-322-4822; and Kauai at 808-274-3043.

Director Ching stated that, "These additional seven weeks come at a very opportune time as we approach the holiday season. Utilizing these federal funds to support our local residents is consistent with the Governor's plan to strengthen Hawai'i's economy."

The EUC will not have an impact on the state's General Fund or the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, as all of the benefits are provided through the federal government.

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